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ABSTRACTS

Strongylides (Nematoda; Strongylidae) of equids from the Askania Nova Biosphere Reserve, Ukraine

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Wild and domestic horses (Equidae) have been kept in the Askania-Nova Biosphere Reserve for more than 100 years. Nowadays, six species of equids – wild Przewalski's horses (*Equus ferus przewalskii*), Turkmenian kulans (*E. hemionus*), donkeys (*E. asinus*), Shetland ponies (*E. caballus*), plains zebras (*E. burchelli*) and Grevy's zebras (*E. grevyi*) are kept in the reserve. The aim of our work was to examine biodiversity and structure of the community of strongylid nematodes in six equid species from the Askania-Nova Biosphere Reserve by *in vivo* method.

Ninety equids (24 Przewalski's horses, 13 kulans, 16 donkeys, 14 ponies and 23 zebras) of various ages were included into the study. All animals were treated with macrocyclic lactone drug "Univerm" (0.2% aversectin C, Russia). Fecal samples (200 g each) were collected from each animal 24, 36, 48 and 60 hours after treatment. All expelled strongylid (62 418 specimens) were collected and identified.

In total 36 species of strongylids (9 species of subfamily Strongylinae and 25 of Cyathostominae) were found in six equid species. In the Przewalski's horses 31 strongylid species were collected, from 9 to 18 species (average 14.5 ± 2.5) parasitizing one horse. In kulans 25 strongylid species were found, from 7 to 19 species (average 14 ± 3.6) per one kulan. In donkeys 26 strongylid species were observed, from 6 to 16 species (average 12.7 ± 2.4) per one donkey. In Shetland ponies 28 strongylid species were detected, from 8 to 24 species (average 14.9 ± 4.0) parasitizing one host. In plains zebras 21 strongylid species were found, from 3 to 14 species (average 8.5 ± 3.2) per one host. In Grevy's zebras 18 strongylid species were found, from 4 to 14 species (average 9.0 ± 3.3) parasitizing one host. The general structure of the strongylid community of all equids, with the exception of Grevy's zebras, was multimodal with dominant, subdominant, background and rare species. Grevy's zebras had bimodal structure of strongylid community ("core – satellite" mode), which is typical for animals that undergo frequent deworming programs. Bray–Curtis Cluster analysis revealed similarity of strongylid communities in both zebra species and donkeys, as well as similarity between strongylid community of Turkmenian kulans and Shetland ponies. Our current data confirm stability of ecological and parasitological conditions in the Askania-Nova Biosphere Reserve during last 40 years.